

Given a partially completed fictional piece, the reader predicts outcomes consistent with prior events.

UNIT 2
Lesson 1
Drawing Conclusions

TECHNICAL TALK

How well can you predict the future? Sometimes it is fun to read part of a story and guess what will happen next. It helps you think about the events that have happened already and how they fit together. A good mystery writer can give you hints but lets you try to draw your own conclusions about what happened until the very end.

TRY IT

Read this selection and pick out the best "next step."



TOUGH KID

Herman was little, but he was tough. He had no father or mother, so he lived mostly on his own in the streets. It was a hard life in 1840. It would have been a hard life any time. He earned money by selling newspapers. He would fight at the drop of a hat, they said, and he could lick his weight in wildcats.

That's why everybody was surprised when another little boy started following Herman around. Like Herman, the little one seemed to have no parents. Nobody knew where he came from, and Herman would not say. Other kids in the neighborhood started teasing Herman about the little one. They called Herman "Papa" and "Warden." But Herman did not seem to mind.

Then one day one of the older kids named Scratch found out that Herman let the little one carry some of his money. It was only a nickle or a dime most of the time.

Scratch hid behind a corner one day and waited for Herman and "Shorty." He let Herman go by, then jumped out and knocked the little one down. He pulled all his pockets out and found a dime. By the time Herman saw what was happening, Scratch was running away.

Which of these things would you expect Herman to do? Which ones would he probably not do? Write Expected or Not expected on the line next to each step.

1. Herman would see that Shorty was just trouble and send him away. _____
2. Herman would look for Scratch and fight him. _____
3. Scratch would leave town. _____
4. Herman would quit selling papers. _____
5. Herman would watch Shorty more carefully to see he was not hurt again. _____
6. Herman would report Scratch to the police. _____

REVIEW

UNIT 2 Lesson 2 Drawing Conclusions

The things Herman would be most likely to do are probably 2 and 5. Herman protects Shorty and there is no reason to think he would change. We do not know why, but Herman likes Shorty. Herman will probably try to solve his problem by fighting. At least he seems to have done it before.

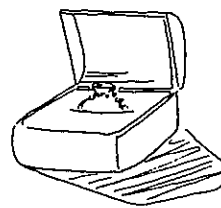
Read this next story and write *E* (Expected) or *N* (Not Expected) in the boxes in front of the possible story endings.

RING

Mary Jean thought about Tim again. She and Tim had been going steady for almost a year now. But in the last month or so they seemed to be drifting apart. She kept thinking there must be more to life than going steady. It had been all right last year when she was a junior. But now she thought of the future. It wasn't just high school any more. In fact, she wouldn't even be going to school in another year.

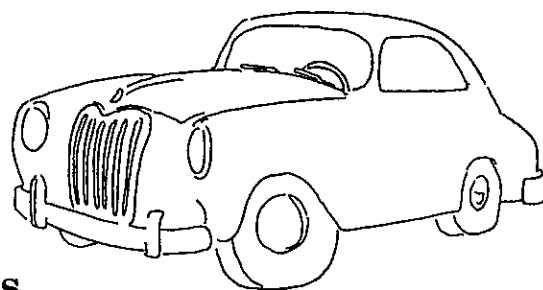
She looked at Tim's ring for a long time in the bright light of her bed lamp. She straightened it on her finger. For a few seconds she pictured her wedding the way she always imagined it. White and pastel rose and a cake three tiers high. But that wasn't quite everything either, she thought. She suddenly knew she had to do it now. She reached quickly for the telephone and punched the buttons.

1. ☐ Her friend Joanie answered sleepily. "Look, Joan. I've got to talk with you. I don't know what to do."
2. ☐ She suddenly realized she had been daydreaming. Miss Patch, her government teacher, was standing over her shoulder. She opened her book quickly and pretended to read.
3. ☐ Tim answered.
"Are you still up?" she asked. "I'm glad. I've got to talk."
"What about?" he wanted to know.
"Us," replied Mary Jean. Her voice was quiet but firm. She had made up her mind.



Read the short story below and place an *E* in the box in front of the ending which seems best and an *N* in the boxes in front of the other two possible endings.

UNIT 2
Lesson 3
Drawing Conclusions



CROSSROADS

He stood in front of the lot. He thought of a car for the first time as a duty. He had a check for one thousand dollars in his pocket. It was all the money he could scrape up. He had cashed in his savings and borrowed everything he could from his sister. He had even pawned his camera and sold some of his other junk to friends.

"It's the deal of a lifetime!" he told himself. That is what the salesman had said. And he knew the car. It had belonged to Old Man Tobin. He had seen the car a hundred times putting down the street with Tobin at the wheel. He never drove it faster than 30. And he knew that Tobin had always kept it up. It was old and it needed paint but it would get him back and forth to work.

He had always wanted something flashy—maybe even fast. He could be big in the neighborhood with mags and pin stripes and maybe even some engine work. This car was nothing like that, but if he didn't buy a car now, he would lose the job he had lined up. He needed the job and his mother needed at least some of the money he could earn.

He thought of moving away. He could take the thousand and leave. He could move somewhere else, work for a year, and then buy almost any car he wanted.

1. ☐ The idea got bigger and bigger in his head. "Walk," he told himself and started down the street. The bus depot was only a few blocks farther.
2. ☐ He smiled a little at the idea. Pin stripes and mags drifted in pictures through his head, but he went into the lot. He kicked a tire on the old car and walked over to the salesman's shack.
3. ☐ He looked around the lot again. There was a newer car down the line. Maybe he could get it if he just waited a few more weeks. He thought he might be able to borrow another five hundred from his friends. Yeah, he would wait a while. They would all just have to get along without the job for a while.

HOW DID YOU DO?

